

Parma, 4 April 2012

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

**Web minutes of the 5th AHAW Network meeting on the request for technical assistance
on Schmallenberg virus**

4 April 2012 (11:00-12:00 h) - teleconference

EFSA / AHAW

Participants

External experts: Claude Saegerman, Franz J. Conraths, Anette Bøtner, Catherine Collignon, Charlotte Dunoyer, Robert Kocsis, Wim van der Poel, Armin Elbers, Ulla Carlsson, Trevor Drew

EFSA: Ana Afonso (Chair), Jane Richardson, Katriina Willgert, Jose Cortinas Abrahantes

DG SANCO: Francesco Berlingieri

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without any additional changes.

3. Discussions

Adoption of previous meeting minutes (1/3/2012)

Update of EFSA activities

Based on the data submitted by “Schmallenberg” virus (SBV) affected Member States, EFSA published a preliminary report of the epidemiological data on 2 April 2012, presenting the temporal and spatial distribution of SBV confirmed herds. The number of herds with at least one confirmed case of SBV is low compared to the total number of herds in the affected countries. For the future data submissions, the reporting officers are asked to report the number of suspect animals, the number of animals tested and the number of positive animals. This is especially important for cattle, as it seems like a high proportion of suspect cases in calves cannot be confirmed by PCR.

Up till now, SBV positive holdings are rarely followed up and the majority of affected countries were not able to provide details on the number of affected animals at SBV confirmed holdings. Thus, there has been no assessment of the within-herd impact of SBV in this report.

Update of activities in Member States

Member States reported national SBV and ongoing activities. Information on activities performed in Member States with regards to monitoring of vectors, seroprevalence studies, follow-up of affected herds and case-control studies were highlighted.

Update from DG SANCO

On 2 April 2012, the European Commission organised a scientific seminar on SBV with the aim to share information with third countries. Most presentations can be accessed online at the DG SANCO website dedicated to SBV

(http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/schmallenberg_virus/).

4. Pending actions

5. Next meeting date

3 May 2012 (conference call)